

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species I, illustrated in Fig(s). 1-4;

Species II, illustrated in Fig(s). 5-7;

Species III, illustrated in Fig(s) 8-10C; and

Species IV, illustrated in Fig(s). 11-14B.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species IV, illustrated in Fig(s). 11-14B, with traverse.

Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 13-24 and 26 are directed to the elected species. As acknowledged by the Examiner, at least claim(s) 1 and 18 are generic.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement, Applicants have elected species IV, claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-24 and 26 for initial examination. It is respectfully submitted that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains only four species. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement is improper in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application.

Because of the very close interrelationship between all the species of the present application and because of the potential expenses which might be required to file separate applications to cover the related species, it is believed that all of the species are properly examinable in a single application. However, in order to be responsive to the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement, claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-24 and 26 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Election of Species Requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application.

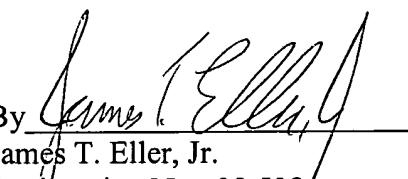
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Registration No.: 39,538
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant